

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Lebanon/Syria
SUBJECT Armenian Communist Activities

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The Patriarch of the Armenian Orthodox Community in Antelias, Lebanon, Karekin Movsepien, receives a large monthly allowance from the Soviets, allegedly for the Armenian poor and for schools, but, actually, the Patriarch spends this money for spreading Soviet propaganda in the various Armenian organizations, ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ In early December 1948 25X1X Viktor Titashov, a senior officer at the Soviet Legation, visited the Patriarch's headquarters and gave him not less than 15,000 pounds sterling.
 2. Two Armenian Communist leaders, Ohannes Ishakian,** who is "in charge of underground broadcasts," according to source, and Dikran Agranov,*** a leading member of the Community Council in Soviet Armenia, left Beirut 25X1X during the week of 19-25 December 1948 for Aleppo, Syria. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ that they were to spend some time in Armenian communities in the vicinity, attempting to unify Armenian ranks. They procured false identity cards from the Syrian Government, under the names of Dikran Gharibian and Ovanes Sarkissian.
 3. A number of Armenian Communist leaders in Syria go to Lebanon from time to time. These leaders include Dr. Jamijian,*** Dikran Kakhtarian, an Aleppo merchant; and Artin Kasparian,*** a leading Damascus Communist. They contact Aran Kazanjian,**** Abraham Benikian (or Balikian), and Garabed Kuyumjian, Armenians who live in Kama al-Zaytun Quarter, Ashrafiyyah District, Beirut. 25X1X
 4. Kakhtarian and Kasparian are smuggling arms into Lebanon, ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Those arms are distributed to Armenian Communists at Anjar and Burj Hammud. 25X1X
 5. During the week of 9-15 January 1949, Ohannes Ishakian, Dikran Agranov, and Artin Vartanov, with two Armenian Orthodox priests, Ovanes Der-Markanian and Vartapet***** Baghdasarov, attended a meeting at the home of Lbese Abkarian at Sinn al-Fil, Lebanon. There were other (unidentified) Armenian Communists from Lebanon and Syria at this meeting.

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6. Ishakian spoke, and asked Armenian Communists to cooperate with their "brethren," the Arab Communists. He stressed the need for preparing for armed struggle in case it should be necessary in order to achieve their goals and to defeat imperialism. He said that the ASSR is ready to appropriate large sums of money to help the Armenian Communists work for Armenian unity with Soviet help, and to continue their struggle to "liberate Lebanon from imperialism." Dikran Agranov added that he was ready to answer any call for material assistance from Communists, so that they will be ready for revolution, and he urged those present to stage demonstrations in support of the workers and the unemployed.
7. Source reports that there is a secret wireless transmitting set in the home of Serkis Danirjian at Burj Hammud, Sinn al-Fil. It is operated by Agop Maloyan, under the supervision of Channes Aghabashian. The set recently was moved from Hosh al-Umara', where it was run by Artin Madoyan, Armenian Communist leader.
8. On 23 January 1948 a meeting was held at the Armenian Orthodox Patriarchate in Antelias, Lebanon. It was attended by Artin Madoyan, his brother (name not specified), deputies of the Armenian Orthodox Archbishops of Jerusalem and Lebanon, and by three other unspecified persons, two laymen and a member of the clergy.

* ~~Comment.~~ Apparently identical with a person working closely with the Soviet Legation and reported variously as Viktor Kitachov, Kitashov, and Titashev. Reports dated 12 December 1948 and 6 January 1949, from a different source, stated that this person had been contacting Kurdish and Druze groups.

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** ~~Comment.~~ Sahakian is another form of this name.

** ~~Comment.~~ An Armenian Orthodox priest, reported by several sources to be a Communist propagandist and organizer.

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*** ~~Comment.~~ Reported on 11 August 1948 to have arrived at Aleppo with four other Armenians, from the ASSR. Their mission was reported to be the organizing of Armenians for repatriation.

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**** ~~Comment.~~ Dr. Jamijian was reported on 5 December 1948 as being a Syrian Communist recently arrived in Lebanon to foment strikes. Artin Kasparian is here for the first time mentioned as a Communist.

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***** ~~Comment.~~ Aram Kazanjian was reported on 20 July 1948 as a tailor and a member of the Terrorist Section, Armenian Section, Communist Party of Lebanon.

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***** ~~Comment.~~ "Vartapet" is a rank in the priesthood, not a name.

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